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Slovak Separatist Group

Karel SIDOR

Until his death last year, SIDOR was the chairman of the Slovak National Council Abroad. Ever since 1935, he was a factor in Czechoslovak politics in general and Slovak politics in particular. As a keen follower of Father HLINKA and his rightist Nazi-collaborationist party during World War II, he was among the most volatile enemies of the Czechs. His militant nationalism pressed for a complete separation of the Slovaks from the Czechs and the establishment of the former into an independent state. When this came to pass under the Nazi regime, he played along, and represented the Nazi puppet Slovak state in the Vatican. After the war he remained in Vatican City and was on the list of war-time Nazi criminals, and was allegedly tried in absentia by the Czech government as a war criminal. SIDOR emigrated to Canada in 1950 and eventually came to the United States, although the Department of State had previously refused a visa to him in 1947 as a "person whose entry would be prejudicial to the interests of the United States."

In 1950 SIDOR was violently attacked by Walter Winchell in an article in the Washington Post which gave a complete description of SIDOR's pro-Nazi and fascist past, and demanded that he be expelled from the United States. He was criticized for having made no attempt at expressing a pro-allied feeling at the time when he was in Rome, and for having made a public declaration as late as 1945 that the Slovak government was "wholeheartedly at the side of the great German ally and protector"; and this at a time when American planes from Italian bases were flying supplies to the Slovak revolutionary anti-Nazi forces.

Following SIDOR's arrival in the United States, he delivered a number of political speeches violently attacking the representatives of the Czechoslovak members of the Council for Free Czechoslovakia.

Philip A. HROBAK

Chairman of the Slovak League in America and editor of the weekly publication JEDNOTA, published in Middletown, Pennsylvania. He also publishes an English language bulletin, Slovak News Letter, which has backed SIDOR's group and the Czech National Council of PROHATA. HROBAK has been a close adherent of the SIDOR group in the United States and has made attacks on Radio Free Europe in his press. It is in JEDNOTA that Kurt GLASER has been publishing attacks against the Czech Exile Movement, and Radio Free Europe, making various insinuations and demanding that all the present Czech collaborators be purged and replaced. A translation of one of the items "How Free is Radio Free Europe" is attached.

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Ferdinand DURCANSKY

Founder of the Slovak Liberation Committee. Like SIDOR, he is considered a collaborator of the Nazi Slovak puppet government during the war, and was in fact the first foreign minister appointed. He was, however, dismissed from his post in 1941, and fled to Vienna, where he continued to attack the Czechoslovak Republic. In April 1947, when DURCANSKY was abroad, the Czechoslovak government of President BENES requested the extradition of DURCANSKY for trial in Czechoslovakia as a war criminal, but the request was refused since the applicable treaty (Italo-Czech of 1921) was not applicable to political criminals. DURCANSKY has always favored the concept of an independent Slovakia, and although he has frequently been spoken of as a rival of SIDOR, the two groups have, in fact, ~~have~~ had identical goals. One of DURCANSKY's affiliates in the United States is Vojtech KRAJCOVIC, chairman of the National Committee for Liberation of Slovakia.

PRCHALA MOVEMENT

Lev PRCHALA

In December 1940, Czech Army General Lev PRCHALA founded the Czechoslovak National Council (CNSR) in London. The purpose of this organization was to gather into one group all Czechoslovak non-Communist elements who were opposed to the policy of the Czechoslovak government-in-exile of Dr. Edward BENES. The CNSR did not have any concrete political program except the negative one of hatred for BENES and the policy which he represented. The small active membership was recruited largely from members of former rightist Czech and Slovak parties. Since 1950 the PRCHALA movement has been closely linked with Sixteen German interests. In Germany, the movement is known as the Czech National Group (CNS) and most of the existing membership is located in DP Camps in the American Zone. The chief aim of the group is to attain autonomy for all national minorities in Czechoslovakia - Germans, Slovaks, Ruthenians, Hungarians, Poles. PRCHALA's group as well as its Slovak counterparts, the Slovak Liberation Committee of DURCANSKY and the Slovak National Council Abroad, formerly headed by SIDOR, are in direct conflict with the Council for Free Czechoslovakia.

MILOS VOBORIL

VOBORIL, who until his recent arrival in the United States was living in Brussels, Belgium, is reported to have been working for the Intelligence Group of PRCHALA since 1949. In this capacity he is

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Alleged to have maintained relations with one Adolf SACHER, a political refugee living in Paris. In 1949 an investigation was conducted regarding SACHER because of suspicion of collaboration with Communist organs, but was discontinued because of insufficient evidence. At that time, SACHER was the official purchasing agent of the Czechoslovak State Tobacco Monopoly and maintained contact with official business agencies in Czechoslovakia, as has been shown from his files.

It has also been reliably reported that VOBORIL was also in touch with one Josef KUBAL, who is at present under indictment of military espionage on behalf of Czechoslovakia before the Paris Military Tribunal, and who appears to have belonged to two Communist espionage networks, "Helge" and "Sebastian". The purpose of the contacts between KUBAL and VOBORIL was, according to source, the shipment of strategic goods to Iron Curtain countries, especially to the CSR. VOBORIL has also been reportedly been in close contact with one Engineer NOVY who was convicted by the Belgians in a clear cut case of espionage on behalf of the Czechs.

It may be significant to point out the following excerpt from a letter written by Ferdinand MIKSCHE in German to a friend in London: (Nov. 10, 1953)

(translation: "I have been invited by the agency for conducting psychological warfare to come to Washington. I learned the purpose of my invitation only after my arrival here. I must return to France by the 18th of November in order to report the outcome of my discussions to General GRUNTER in person.

"McGARTHY will be dealing with 'personalities' of the Czechoslovak exiled politicians in the USA in the next few days. In that manner they will be morally annihilated ('Moralisch vernichtet')."

"I cannot understand how BESENZEY could debase himself to make an agreement with Czech politicians."

It is recalled that MIKSCHE has been suspected of being a Communist fellow-traveler, and that he has also had a very close tie to the German elements, such as the Kurt GLASER forces.

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Slovak Liberation Committee

The Slovak Liberation Committee is composed of the most extreme rightist Slovaks in exile led by Dr. Ferdinand Durcansky, former Minister of the Interior, and Foreign Secretary of the Tiso regime in Slovakia. After the war, Dr. Durcansky, whose name headed the list of Allied-wanted war criminals, escaped to Argentina.

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under the name of the Hlinka Guard. During his regime, 3,000 democratic Slovaks have been jailed; 3,995 were sentenced; 30,000 persons were dragged off to German concentration camps; 109,000 Jews were deported to Germany and Poland, of which 68,000 perished. Germany was provided with 120,000 Slovak workers. During all this time, Durcansky provoked hatred and aspersion against the Jews in press and radio and supported racial theory. A lawyer by profession, Durcansky and his office profited from arisation of Jewish property. He was the recipient of bribes, running into hundreds of thousands, from terrified Jews.

Later, Durcansky became Foreign Secretary of the Slovak state. With others, he is responsible for Slovakia having declared war on America and England. He led the radio campaign against Western democracies, defaming their institutions. When in 1944 an uprising against the Germans and the Durcansky-Tiso regime broke, owing to Slovak sympathies with the Allies, Durcansky took part in the merciless suppression of that rebellion. Thousands of persons were liquidated without having been accorded whatever trial, by either the German or Durcansky's Hlinka Guard.

In 1945, Durcansky fled from Slovakia together with the Germans. He took with him a large amount of medicaments and also opium. He lives on the proceeds of this lot and finances his present political activity from these funds. His name may be found on the list of war criminals, issued by the Allies after the war. As a registered war criminal he has been sen-

tenced to death in Czechoslovakia, in contumaciam. The documents of the International Court of Justice in Nuremberg offer all necessary material as to his activities.